

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A method for producing a complex metal oxide powder, comprising:

heating at least two metal salts, or a complex metal salt comprising two different metals, in the substantial absence of hydrogen halide gas, to a temperature at which transition to a complex metal oxide occurs, and calcining the metal salts or the complex metal salt in the presence of a hydrogen halide gas.

2. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein a concentration of the hydrogen halide gas after heating is from about 0.1 vol% to about 10 vol%.

3. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, comprising heating at least three metal salts, wherein at least one metal salt is a metal halide salt, and at least one metal salt is a non metal halide salt.

4. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the complex metal salt comprises at least two different ~~of~~-metal atoms, a halogen atom, and a non-halogen atom.

5. (previously presented): The method according to claim 3, wherein each non metal halide salt is made of the same metal as one of the metal halide salts.

6. (original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the metal halide salt and the non metal halide salt made of the same metal are at a molar ratio in a range of 99.9:0.1 to 90:10.

7. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein a temperature of the calcination is from about 500°C to about 1000°C.

8. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the complex metal oxide powder is a perovskite-structure oxide powder.

9. (original): The method according to claim 8, wherein the perovskite-structure oxide powder comprises a titanate.

10. (new): A method for producing a complex metal salt comprising heating at least two metal salts, or a complex metal salt comprising two different metals, at a hydrogen halide gas concentration of not more than about 0.1 vol%, to a temperature at

which transition to a complex metal oxide occurs, and calcining the metal salts or the complex metal salt in the presence of a hydrogen halide gas.

11. (new): The method according to claim 10, wherein a concentration of the hydrogen halide gas after heating is from about 0.1 vol% to about 10 vol%.

12. (new): The method according to claim 10, comprising heating at least three metal salts, wherein at least one metal salt is a metal halide salt, and at least one metal salt is a non metal halide salt.

13. (new): The method according to claim 10, wherein the complex metal salt comprises at least two different of metal atoms, a halogen atom, and a non-halogen atom.

14. (new): The method according to claim 10, wherein a temperature of the calcination is from about 500°C to about 1000°C.

15. (new): The method according to claim 10, wherein the complex metal oxide powder is a perovskite-structure oxide powder.